

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – August 22, 2018 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Keller, Karen Danley, Julia Kertz-Grant, Chris Cook

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marc Grubert, Mark Suderman, Kari Kostka

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Mike Edwards

OTHER: Larry Maneely, Chris Daly (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:

C. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

K. Danley would like to amend her statement regarding E-Bikes from the June meeting. This will be brought to the Board at the September meeting.

K. Danley would like to discuss the E-Bikes ordinance.

Motion: J. Keller moved to approve the July minutes. C. Cook seconded. Motion passed

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The 2019 fiscal year budget was adopted on August 21st. Highlights for our Department are the \$105,000.00 for the seasonal staff budget, \$42,000.00 for Ridge to Rivers, \$45,000.00 for Red Hawk trail development, \$53,000.00 for Barber Park Capital Improvements and \$28,000.00 for offsite park facilities. J. Grant inquired if the budget stayed flat? S. Koberg responded that a couple years ago we increased a couple of our budget lines that included the seasonal budget line. We have also taken on large capital improvement projects. This has reduced our Greenbelt maintenance items. J. Grant went on to ask if the Red Hawk allocation was still the same. S. Koberg responded that 2 years ago it was \$60,000.00. Next fiscal year it is \$45,000.00. J. Keller inquired as to who will maintain the Red Hawk trails. S. Koberg responded that until it connects to Avimor, the trail easements for maintenance would be handed over to Ridge to Rivers.

Scott met with Hidden Springs Town Manager and the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley this past Friday. This was a follow up from a private property and Ridge to Rivers Trail Managers discussion from earlier this summer. They have been trying to determine how they could launch from a corner that's owned by a private land owner. The county holds the relocatable trail easement for Red Tail Trail. There are 3 entities involved with this-the county, Hidden Springs and the private land owner. S. Koberg went on to show a current map of Red Hawk and the trail concept from the land owner. This will be taken to the Hidden Springs Open Space Committee and their Town Council at the beginning of September. This would create additional stacked loops within the property. This would keep a broad area open near the landslide for wildlife, so Fish and Game's comments are taken into consideration along with Hidden Springs interests in keeping this area open as a wildlife corridor. S. Koberg went on to say that it gives us an approximate trail mileage with what we would be sacrificing if this piece was relocated. He thinks this is a good exchange and we would get the loops needed for the launching point near the saddle. C. Cook inquired if there are people opposed to the change? S. Koberg responded that the Open Space Committee had some hesitancy when they saw the amount of mileage in the south eastern corner. There is also hesitancy from the Land Trust in giving up the connection to Cartwright. They see it as a place holder for future connectivity. J. Keller inquired what the private property owner's hang up with the Cartwright section is. S. Koberg responded that he wants to develop it. J. Grant inquired what Fish and Game's thoughts are on the new configuration? S. Koberg responded that there have been ongoing talks with Krista and Fish and Game. This aligns with past

discussions and follow-up recommendations she made which relate to seasonal closures and a resting spot for game on the south facing slope with minimal disturbance in the winter. K. Danley inquired if the trail is 18 inches wide? S. Koberg responded that it's a single track trail consistent with Red Tail. J. Grant inquired how many miles of trail this is. S. Koberg originally thought it was about 4 miles, but this it may be more. He will email the Board the mileage after the meeting. C. Cook commented that with all the homes being built in Hidden Springs that they need more trails and stacked loops. J. Grant added that if the property owner develops the property and moves the trail easement, then it would be along someone's backyard. S. Koberg added that the county holds that trail easement, so we have a say in where that alignment is most appropriate.

The Ridge to Rivers Open Space open house is August 29th at 6PM at The Depot. The discussion will be trail projects and accomplishments. There will also be input sought for potentially rerouting erosive wider trails on steep slopes and realigning them with single track connections. C. Cook inquired if this was already covered on the Ridge to Rivers 10 year plan. S. Koberg responded that it was for specific trails. He went on to say that there is an online survey regarding trails. The Happy Trails campaign will also be discussed at the open house.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

M. Edwards shared a PowerPoint presentation of the work that has been completed at the Bike Park and other properties in the last month. The bermed corner on Stormin' Mormon has been replaced with soil hardener. Unfortunately, this didn't hold up. Because of the soil which is mostly clay, there wasn't good soil penetration with the soil hardener. The entire berm needs to be rebuilt. A rototiller, plate compactor and water is being used to aid in the rebuild. If this doesn't work, Turf Stone will be used which looks similar to the original way the turn looked, but smaller spaced. The Junkyard sign that J. Keller suggested be added at the last meeting was placed right above Goose Creek Road.

At Hubbard M. Edwards and his crew took down the old corral and fencing. He also mentioned all the weeds that were pulled and piled up, ready to be hauled away. In the riparian area there is a lot of old fencing that has been taken down and stacked, ready to be hauled away.

At Oregon Trail, additional weed removal has taken place. Equestrians have not been picking up after their horses. K. Danley mentioned she would add this to the website to remind other equestrians. The Idaho Department of Lands has approved the culvert project. M. Edwards is now waiting on approval from Army Corps of Engineers. Approval is expected soon.

Upcoming projects include sign work at the Bike Park, painting the parking bumpers at Oregon Trail along with weed removal into the fall. K. Danley inquired if the large pile of barbed wire at Hubbard could be flagged. Mike said he would flag it.

ADVISORY BOARD FILED TRIP REPORT:

J. Grant attempted to float the river her family on July 29th. Unfortunately, all the boats were on the river when she arrived and they wouldn't return before Raft & Tube closed at 6PM. She suggested posting a sign at the kiosk letting potential raft renters know that there were no more boats available. She also suggested that there be some kind of communication between the Raft and Tube and the kiosk. She inquired if there has been any more discussion regarding reserving rafts online. S. Koberg responded that the Raft and Tube have online inventory for what is being turned in down river. With this record breaking year, it isn't uncommon for people to wait an hour and a half for a boat. J. Grant added that they came back the next evening and were able to rent a raft and had a nice time.

K. Danley added that she went to Eagle Island on horseback. She noted some repairs that needed to be made. M. Edwards responded that this was a state park and his suggestion for these repairs was to contact Idaho State Parks directly. She mentioned that she had several meetings trying to get to know other trail systems. She talked with Katie Gothea who is the Oregon Legislative and Policy Coordinator. She talked with Charlie Baun as they are in the beginning stages of creating an equestrian trail map to mirror southwest Washington. She also attended the Eagle Parks Pathways and Recreation commission meeting last week in hopes of discussing the Eagle E-Bikes ordinance, but that was discussed as a city council meeting.

C. Cook checked out the new Penitentiary Canal pathway. He was impressed how wide and smooth it was.

NEW BUSINESS

PENITENTIARY CANAL GREENBELT UPDATE:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Penitentiary Canal. The path was opened and totally completed by the weekend following the prior Parks Board meeting. Photos were posted to Facebook to show the before and after to help people understand how bad the path was prior to construction. The path is 11 feet wide with centerline skip striping. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 1st. We are doing general maintenance and fence installation currently. J. Grant inquired what kind of feedback we have received. S. Koberg responded that it was extremely positive.

PROPERTY REFRESHER SERIES PART 4: ADA/EAGLE BIKE PARK:

S. Koberg presented a PowerPoint overview of the Ada/Eagle Bike Park and provided background and history regarding the site.

Currently there cycling for all skill levels, 26 named and signed trails, multi-use trails with connectivity to Ridge to Rivers trail system, skate park, basketball court, restrooms, parking (238 total stalls), Firewise garden and RC car track. In addition there are lots of events, practices, workshops, ride groups, races, etc.

The future of Ada/Eagle includes the site and assessment inventory completed in 2014 and the Site Maintenance and Enhancement Plan.

Options to consider for the Advisory Board include establishing subcommittees and scheduling and participating in site visits and communication with Open Space and Trail Coordinator.

E-BIKES:

K. Danley attended the Eagle Parks Pathways and Recreation meeting last week to follow up on how the ordinance would be voted in. She was told at this meeting that the ordinance went to Eagle City Council first and to the Eagle Parks Pathways and Recreation committee. It was brought to her attention that the Eagle City Council was told via email by M. Edwards that the Ada County Parks Board was OK with class I E-Bikes at the Bike Park. She would like to revisit this and provide Eagle City with the Board's comments. C. Cook commented that the Parks Board doesn't have an official say as to what Eagle City does, they were just looking for input. The parties went on to discuss this issue.

K. Danley is on the agenda for the next Eagle Parks Pathways and Recreation meeting to make them aware of the Parks Board minutes and will present the minutes to Eagle City regarding the input of the Parks Board regarding class I E-Bikes at the Bike Park.

J. Keller suggested that the Board make a recommendation to the Commissioners notifying them of the disparity K. Danley has pointed out and allowing them to consider future potential actions on an official level.

In the future, as an Advisory Board, K. Danley thinks they need to have an official position statement. S. Koberg added that we are trying to look at the big picture. Policy wise, from a department standpoint, we need to determine, based on input from the Advisory Board, if E-Bikes are appropriate on Ada County's portion of the Bike Park. S. Koberg is willing to meet with Eagle and voice the concerns of the Advisory Board.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:51p.m.